Q What is the Digital Tax Map?

A The Digital Tax Map may be defined simply as a digital version of the basic Chesterfield County Tax Map. However, the digital version has a huge capacity for providing added value beyond the capabilities of its printed cousin. The Digital Tax Map is made up of a series of geographic layers that can be overlaid on each other to build a map. Each of these layers is tied to a database that contains additional information about the layer. For instance, with the Digital Tax Map a user can query a parcel and receive information such as the owner's name and address, property address, parcel identification number and assessment data. When teamed with other tools provided by the data-viewing application, this information can be manipulated many ways to answer the questions of the user.

Q What do I need to do to purchase the Digital Tax Map?

A In order to purchase the Digital Tax Map, you must complete the License Agreement for Chesterfield County Digital Tax Map. The agreement may be acquired at the GIS Mapping Counter, located on the third floor of the Community Development building. The Community Development building is located at 9800 Government Center Parkway in the Chesterfield County Government Complex. If you are unable to pick up a copy of the license agreement in person, please call (804) 748-1035 and ask for a GIS representative to arrange a different method of receipt. Once we have received the license agreement and payment, we can produce the disk(s). We can also mail disks upon request.

Q How long will it take to produce the Digital Tax Map disk(s)?

A Each Digital Tax Map disk takes about 15 minutes to produce.

Q What information do you offer for sale?

A We sell a large number of layers. These layers can be divided into several categories:
- base data
- topography
- water and sewer facilities
- zoning
- planimetrics
- aerial photography

Please see the chart below for more details about the above categories.

Digital Tax Map Layers

Layer Categories	Layers Included Within Category			Price
Base Data				$400.00
Parcels	Off-site Utility Easements	Lakes		
Easements	Resource Protection Areas	Floodplains		
Street Centerlines	Subdivisions	Lot Lines		
Streams	County Tile Index	Miscellaneous (Tie Lines)		
State and National Parks	County Parks	Major Streets		
Major Reservoirs	Major Rivers	County Boundary		
Topography				$400.00
Topography Lines*	Spot Elevation Points*			
Water/Sewer Facilities				$120.00
Water Facilities Only	Water Points			$60.00
Water Lines				
Sewer Facilities Only	Sewer Points			$60.00
Sewer Lines	Sewer Connections			
Zoning				$120.00
Planimetrics (Buildings/Road Extents)				$400.00
Buildings Only				$60.00
Road Extents Only				$60.00
2002 Aerial Photography (MrSID format only)				$400.00

*Topography from either 1989 or 2002 compilation
**Planimetrics compiled from 2002 photography

Q Are updates for the Digital Tax Map available?

A Updates are available on four different update schedules. These schedules include monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual options. Pricing information for updates can be found in Appendix A of the License Agreement for Chesterfield County Digital Tax Map. Updates must be purchased within a year of the initial Digital Tax Map purchase date.

Q I am purchasing the data in the middle of the year and would like updates. Do I have to pay for a whole year of updates?

A Update purchases made in the middle of the year will be prorated through the end of the purchase year. A new license agreement will be required at the beginning of each new calendar year.

Q I don't have a program to open ESRI™ shapefiles. How can I view this information?

A The Digital Tax Map comes with two free viewers. One viewer is called ESRI ArcExplorer™. The version included on the CD is packaged for the Windows operating system, but there also exist versions for Solaris, AIX, HP-UX and Linux. The other viewer is called TatukGIS Viewer and is only available on the Windows operating system.

Q What does my computer need to run this program?

A ESRI requires a minimum of a Pentium III processor running at 800 MHz or faster with 128 MB of RAM to run ArcExplorer. The minimum installation (Base Data only) will require about 400 MB of disk space including ArcExplorer. An installation with all of the data layers except the photography will require approximately 1 GB of disk space. The aerial photography requires an additional 2 GB of disk space. A CD-ROM drive is also necessary to install the Digital Tax Map. The included viewing software requires Microsoft Windows.

Q How do I install the Digital Tax Map?

A Insert the disk in your CD-ROM drive. After a few seconds, a program will come up. From there, click on the Help button for more information. An insert also comes with the disk that includes similar directions for quick reference.

Q Can I purchase your aerial photography information as well?

A We offer full aerial photography coverage of the county in the MrSID file format. Other file formats are available through the Virginia Geographic Information Network by browsing to www.vgin.virginia.gov. NOTE: ArcExplorer does not currently support images in the MrSID file format. Please use the TatukGIS Viewer instead.

Q Can I get the aerials in a TIFF format?

A Due to the size of the TIFF files, we cannot provide full aerial coverage of the county in this format. If you require this format, contact the Virginia Base Mapping Program by sending an e-mail to VBMP@vgin.virginia.gov.

Q Does the Digital Tax Map include a usage guide or tutorial?

A A tutorial is included with the data on the disk. It can be found under the Help menu on the install program that opens when the disk is inserted in your CD-ROM drive. If you have further questions or problems, please contact a GIS representative at (804) 748-1035.

Q Can I print large maps like your tax maps with this software?

A ArcExplorer is not designed to print large format prints. It allows a user to print 8.5-by11-inch maps with a single map template. ArcExplorer is a free data viewer and does not provide all of the capabilities of a full geographic information system, or GIS. If you would like to print larger maps, please look into purchasing a full GIS software package.

Q Can you e-mail the Digital Tax Map to me?

A Due to the large size of the data, we can only provide our data on CD-ROM following the successful completion of our license agreement. We will mail the disk(s) upon request.

Q How often is the data updated?

A We are constantly striving to keep our data up to date. We make changes to it daily. These changes are compiled weekly into the shapefiles that we distribute.

Q How accurate is your data?

A Our original base data was compiled to meet National Map Accuracy Standards at a scale of 1:2,400. Therefore, the accuracy is within ±5 feet horizontally, for a total possible error of ±10 feet. In most areas the accuracy will be better than ±5 feet.

Q What projection does the Digital Tax Map come in?

A The Digital Tax Map uses the Virginia State Plane Coordinate System, South Zone projection based on the North American Datum 1983 (NAD83).

Q What file format does the data come in?

A The files come in an ESRI shapefile format. A shapefile is made up of several files. Each file performs a different role. One file contains the geometry. Another file contains the tabular information, and the remaining files index the group to speed information access.

Q What kind of information is contained in the layers?

A Each layer contains a database behind its geometry. This database stores information pertinent to the particular layer. For instance, the parcel layer contains information such as the parcel GPIN, owner, parcel address and acreage.